Hudson UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | Musings



December 2026

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Celebrate Christmas with Us!

Come and share in the wonder, beauty, and hope of Christmas as we gather to worship at Hudson UMC! You are warmly invited. Bring your family, invite a friend, and make **Christmas Eve, December 24** a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the greatest gift of all at either 4 pm; 7pm; 11pm.



Poinsettias and Decorations Needed for Christmas

Let us shop for you.

Care to donate a monetary gift towards poinsettias and decorations for the Sanctuary?



Please place your donation in an envelope and place it in Vickie Deal's mailbox.

Direct your questions to Vickie Deal.

DECEMBER Mission of the Month

The **December Mission of the Month (MOM)** noisy can offering will be donated to the Africa University Women's Tuition Contribution. Their mission is to provide quality education within a Pan-African context through which persons can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities.

Activity and Events



All Are Welcome to Attend December Events



Activities and Events continued on page 3



Men's Koffee Klutch

Enjoy a cup of coffee, fruit, a pastry, and some good conversation! It's a great chance to catch up with friends, share a few laughs, and grow in faith together. Bring a friend or come on your own.
All men are welcome!
We meet every Wednesday at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Come when you can and enjoy one cup at a time!

Wednesday 10:30 am Zoom Bible Study

This group is a way to build relationships, learn from the Scriptures, share insights and hear different perspectives. Join this study from anywhere, from the comforts of your home, from a local coffee shop, or while traveling. Connecting is simple-just clink a link on your phone, tablet, or computer. Meet online every **Wednesday at 10:30 am.**
Call 715.386.3921 for the link or to talk with the facilitator, Darci Strutt.



Sewmuchneed

Hudson United Methodist Sewing Missions Ministry

By Connie Nielsen

The group met on Monday, November 9 from 9 until noon.

We would like to give a very **BIG BIG** Thank You to the congregation for your support in October for the Missions of the Month. It is greatly appreciated. We hope everyone got to check out the sewing group displays in the church.

Clarice Huehne has been delivering quilts, hats and mittens to the 4 elementary schools in the area. She also delivered quilts to Operation Help. Nancy Briske has delivered 10 quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and also other items to WIC.

BIG Thanks to the ladies that made hats and mittens. Greatly appreciated at the schools. **Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 7 from 9 until noon.**

Activities & Events continued from page 2



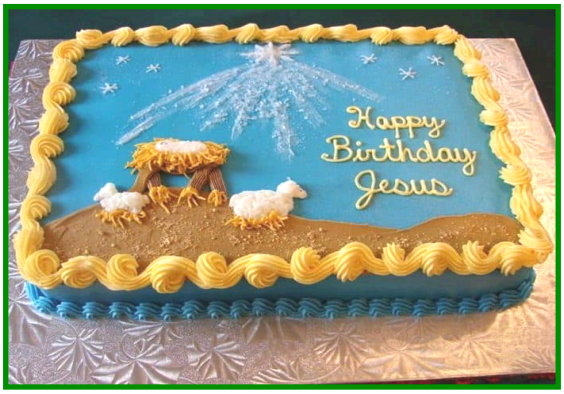




Tuesday, December 15th

January Newsletter Reminder

The next Musings article deadline is **Tuesday, December 15** for the January issue. Anyone can submit an article or information to the newsletter. Please send in your articles to hudsonumc@sbcglobal.net.



Happy Birthday Jesus!

Sunday, Dec. 20/ 9:30 am/ Fellowship Hall

Let's Party! Everyone is welcome to celebrate the joy of Christmas! Join together to enjoy birthday party cupcakes, delicious treats, singing, "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and a fun ornament-making activity. Create a special ornament to take home and enjoy! **This is a free event for all ages!** Bring the family, invite a friend, and wear your favorite Christmas attire! Come share the JOY of Christmas together!

DayAway Update

By Tara Murdzek, ADRC, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Health and Human Services, New Richmond

Sometimes the greatest gift we can give is a little of our time!
There is an immediate need of volunteers and substitutes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Amber Halverson at 715.381.4360 to help. Thank you!

December Birthdays

Current as of 11/15/26

Wishing you a wonderful day with family and friends! We apologize if your name isn't listed. We wish you a Happy December Birthday, too! Please inform the church office of your birthday, and your name and birth date will be added to the birthday list.
Thank you.

Hope you have a wonderful day with family and friends

12/06 Linda Ewing	12/17 Samantha Struemke	
12/07 Mark Dolan	12/20 Arlene Dahle	12/27 Wesley Dahle
12/07 Mel Hermansen	12/20 Jenna Hallen	12/27 Clarice Huehne
12/17 Vicki Bolton	12/20 Ellie Tulgren	12/28 Don Stannard

Book Club & Discussion Update

Our book group is taking a four-month break. We won't meet in December, January, February or March. We are expecting to resume on the 3rd Sunday of April in the fellowship hall. Hope to see you in April! Direct your questions to Carla Bebault.

Finance Update

Treasurer's Finance Update

By Nicole Munro, Treasurer on behalf of the Finance Team

Summary End of OCTOBER

YTD 2026

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	% Budget
General Fund Income	**$262,391**	$240,000	109%
General Fund Expense	**$269,574**	$271,160	99%
Net Profit/Loss	**-$7,183**	-$31,160	23%

*NOTE: The General Fund Income YTD Actual consists of Pledges/Envelopes plus other income (i.e. Un-pledged Giving, Special Holiday Giving, Loose Coin Offering, Interest Income from Investment Accounts, etc.)

Finance Secretary Update as of November 1, 2026

By Steve Close

Month	Fund (Monthly	Monthly Giving	Budget	YTD 4005	Fund YTD	Budget	Actual 4005	Variance 4005	Actual 4005	Variance 4005	Amount	Amount
January	$ 24,000	$ 33,090	$ 9,090	$ 24,000	$ 33,090	$ 9,090	$33,927	$ (837)	$ 33,927	$ (837)	$ 26,399	$ 6,691
February	$ 24,000	$ 18,278	$ (5,722)	$ 48,000	$ 51,369	$ 3,369	$34,245	$ (15,967)	$ 68,172	$ (16,803)	$ 15,539	$ 2,740
March*	$ 24,000	$ 41,929	$ 17,929	$ 72,000	$ 93,298	$ 21,298	$31,110	$ 10,819	$ 99,282	$ (5,984)	$ 18,984	$ 22,946
April**	$ 24,000	$ 27,653	$ 3,653	$ 96,000	$ 120,950	$ 24,950	$26,475	$ 1,178	$ 125,757	$ (4,807)	$ 20,726	$ 6,927
May	$ 24,000	$ 35,053	$ 11,053	$ 120,000	$ 156,004	$ 36,004	$17,178	$ 17,875	$ 142,935	$ 13,069	$ 18,269	$ 16,784
June*	$ 24,000	$ 19,134	$ (4,866)	$ 144,000	$ 175,137	$ 31,137	$27,029	$ (7,895)	$ 169,964	$ 5,173	$ 14,939	$ 4,195
July	$ 24,000	$ 22,690	$ (1,310)	$ 168,000	$ 197,828	$ 29,828	$23,397	$ (707)	$ 193,361	$ 4,467	$ 14,642	$ 8,048
August *	$ 24,000	$ 21,637	$ (2,363)	$ 192,000	$ 219,465	$ 27,465	$15,800	$ 5,837	$ 209,161	$ 10,304	$ 18,074	$ 3,564
September	$ 24,000	$ 20,637	$ (3,363)	$ 216,000	$ 240,102	$ 24,102	$23,644	$ (3,007)	$ 232,805	$ 7,297	$ 13,758	$ 6,878
October	$ 24,000	$ 15,167	$ (8,833)	$ 240,000	$ 255,268	$ 15,268	$22,292	$ (7,125)	$ 255,097	$ 171	$ 12,097	$ 3,069
November*	$ 24,000			$ 264,000	$ 255,268	$ (8,732)	$20,308	$ (20,308)	$ 275,405	$ (20,137)		
December	$ 24,000			$ 288,000	$ 255,268	$ (32,732)	$21,213	$ (21,213)	$ 296,945	$ (41,677)		
Total	$ 288,000	$ 255,268	$ 15,268				$ 296,618	$ (41,350)			$ 173,426	$ 81,841

Finance Secretary Update continued

By Steve Close

Giving Notes:

Pledged Amount through 10/31/26 was $130,090 amount received was $173,427.

*5 Sunday Month

** Easter Sunday

Annual Pledge Comparison

Year	# of Pledges	$ of Pledges	Received
2022	72	$ 242,432	$ 359,673
2023	60	$ 214,245	$ 218,257
2024	56	$ 232,018	$ 224,084
2025	51	$ 209,740	$ 218,212
2026	46	$ 211,680	

Hudson Food Cupboard Update

By Denise Stalker

Thank you to all who helped with Stuff a Truck! It was a huge success and has helped restock the food cupboard. **Items that seem to always be in need are coffee, tea, chunky soups, jello, and baking supplies.** Enjoy the holidays and keep those in need in mind when shopping for your holiday supplies. Thank you, Denise Stalker

Mission Updates



Raider Network

By Margie Bertelsen Brown

Happy Holidays!

The deliveries to the high school will continue until the end of the school year, so we will need everything on the list until May. Juice boxes are usually the first item to go, but everything we deliver is very much appreciated. You can find the list and a bag for you to use on a table in the narthex. You will also find the list below. I have been making the deliveries the last week of every month, so please just bring in whatever you can by the end of the month. Or whenever it is convenient for you. Thank you very much

SHOPPING LIST HHS Raider Network

Choose **one** item from the list: Individual microwavable cups: Mac & Cheese, Ramen noodles, Chef Boyardee meals

Choose **two** items from the list: Individual bags or single serving: Goldfish crackers, Cheez-its, Snack crackers, Cheese or Peanut Butter crackers, Trail mix, Beef jerky, Beef sticks (non-refrigerated)

Choose **one** item from the list: Fruit snacks, Fruit roll-ups, Fruit leather, Unsweetened applesauce cups-multi pack

Also needed: Juice boxes, and refillable water bottles

Statistics Update

By Kathy O'Brien Schroeder, Admin Hudson UMC

OCTOBER Attendance 2026

Date	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Home Mailing	YouTube	Weekly
4-Oct	44	42	23	64	173
11-Oct	27	41	23	45	136
18-Oct	39	54	23	57	173
25-Oct	32	43	23	27	125
TOTAL	**142**	**180**	**92**	**193**	**607**

Sunday School Update

By Amy Norelius

Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School Dates in 2026 are:
December 6, 13 (Dec. 20 – Happy Birthday Jesus Party and Ornament making.),
Sunday School Dates in 2027 are:
January 3 – no class (New Year), January 10, 24; February 2, 21; March 7, 21 (Palm Sunday);
April 4, 18; May 2, 16 (Last Day of Sunday School)

We have one youth in confirmation: Charlie Dolan
We have one child entering into third grade who will receive a Bible this year: Henry Dolan

Hot off the Press News!





Worship Updates

By Adele Dolan

With all that has transpired in the world, our country and our community during the past year, I have needed messages to cling to when hope seems lost. During many worship services throughout the year, we have been reminded of variations on the words of God's angel messengers as recorded in our Advent and Christmas scriptures:

"Fear not." "Do not be afraid." "The Lord is with you."

I know that my legitimate daily fears are fewer than what so many others experience, and my heart breaks to consider the losses of home, health, or family; the threats of drones, deportation and deprivation, that so much of the world suffers. I have privileges I take for granted, and opportunities I often ignore. And the future remains a mystery. Changes and challenges are inevitable in this unpredictable world. Whatever happens, I pray that I will never forget the many gifts that are available to lift me up and renew my hope: a community of faith, an insightful pastor, a loving host of family and friends, the wonder and beauty of creation, the soul-healing power of music and prayer – all precious reminders of the promise and reality of God's eternal presence, no matter what. During the Christmas season, we focus on that presence by celebrating the anticipated arrival of Baby Jesus - Emmanuel – God with us in person!

Make regular worship a part of your Advent and Christmas. Share the love, joy, hope and peace of this wonderful season with others at Hudson United Methodist Church, and be encouraged.

Emmanuel. God is with us. Always.

Christmas blessings to all!
Sincerely in Christ, Adele Dolan, Worship Team Chair





Hudson United Methodist Church
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Return Service Requested

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